

1-5-1987

Henri Temianka Correspondence; (macbeth)

Norman MacBeth

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Keywords

Henri Temianka, Norman MacBeth, January 5, 1987, culture, virtuosity in musical performance, violinist, chamber music, camaraderie, Emmy Temianka, wife, husband, family, son, father, recreation and entertainment, literature, humor

Norman Macbeth
45 SHARON DRIVE
SPRING VALLEY, NEW YORK 10977

Dear Henri

5 January 87

Your Life and Art is a masterpiece as to both form and substance. It is also a demonstration of your prudence and patience in preserving all the material that made it possible. Some people keep diaries; some keep photographs and papers. Most of us do neither, with the result that we cannot reconstruct our lives in an orderly and complete way. I have a good memory, but I could never give an accurate account of my 76 years, and such an account as I could give would be a rambling oral story that nobody would listen to. Your performance provokes shame and envy in me, though these are outweighed by admiration.

From here to Times Square is an easy 50-minute bus ride. Therefore, if you ever have a free noon hour in your visits to NYC, I could join you for lunch in town. But not in April, because then I will be in England attending a gathering of all the descendants of my great-

grandfather, NM III, who was a painter in Edinburgh. He had five sons, but in my generation the only descendants bearing the name are me and Dr. John Macbeth of Chelmsford. He has four daughters and no sons, so in the next generation my son Angus is the only Macbeth. Everybody urges him to be fruitful and multiply as though it would be a tragedy if the name faded out entirely. There are some who reproach me for not having named Angus NM III, but I felt strongly that it was time for a change. He has followed the same line, naming his only son (to date) Hampden rather than reverting to Norman. Strangely, in Newburgh, 50 miles north of here, a leading citizen and his son were both named Norman Macbeth, although no common ancestry could be discovered. One of the English cousins is working on a big chart of all the descendants, and I will carefully put a copy of this chart into the archives for the benefit of Angus and Hampden.

Best to Emmy, an award to be cherished.

Yours
Norman

[[Nick Dante 3/13/18]]

[[Henri Temianka Correspondence
Norman MacBeth
Letter #1]]

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